

May/June 2005

Trendlines

Perspective On Utah's Economy



Summer Jobs for Teens

Go West!
For Job Growth

Iron County
On The Move

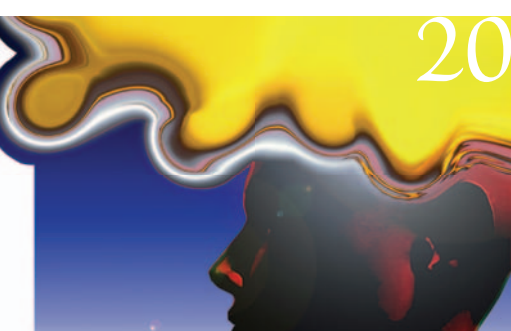
College Degree?
What Next?



*nothing ahead
but wide open road
help them get there*

careersutah.
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meet tani downing

“Governor Huntsman was elected on a platform to change and improve the way state government does business,” said Downing. “I believe he is a man of vision and integrity and I’m honored to be asked to serve with him in this historic endeavor.”

Downing has been with the Department of Workforce Services since January 2002. She was first appointed as General Counsel and Director of the Division of Adjudication (Legal/Appeals). Under her leadership, the Division of Adjudication (Legal/Appeals) was awarded the “Most Improved in the Region,” from the Department of Labor for years 2002 and 2003. Recently, Downing was appointed by Governor Walker to Chair the Workforce Appeals Board.

Downing also practiced seven years as Associate General Counsel with the Utah Legislature where she drafted bills and provided legal counsel in many areas such as public utilities, information technology, weapons, judiciary, tax, business labor and economic development, energy and natural resources, and state and local government. ●



On Wednesday, January 27 Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. named Tani Pack Downing as the new Workforce Services Executive Director.

“Tani Pack Downing has already proven her ability and skills within the Department of Workforce Services,” said Governor Huntsman. “Her leadership in such an important department will be heavily relied upon in my administration.”

Tani Downing
named new
DWS
Executive
Director



did you know?

• Iron County is home to the Tony-Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival.

• Although Cedar City is by far Iron County's largest township, Parowan is home of the county seat.

• The 2000 Census reveals that almost 700 Iron County residents commute to Washington County for work.

• Brian Head Ski Resort, located in Iron County, has been honored as a "Top Family Getaway" by the Family Travel Forum.

median age, its well-educated population, its high level of government employment, and perhaps its lower-than-average wages (an abundant, young labor force generally keeps labor prices lower).

Iron County's economy has recently shaken off the bands of recession. Employment, construction activity, and sales indicators currently reflect a healthy and vibrant economy. ⓘ

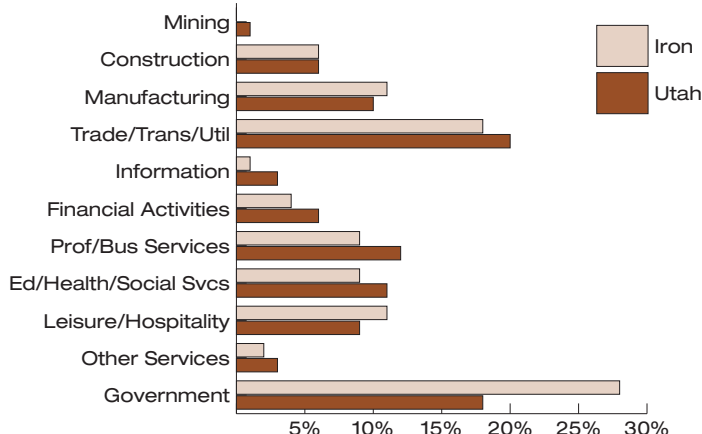
More? go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/western/iron/iron2.asp>

Iron County is often overshadowed by its larger neighbor to the south. However, the county's recent expansion certainly deserves attention in its own right. In 2004, Iron County exhibited the third-fastest population growth in Utah and it has consistently ranked among Utah's fastest-growing counties for the past decade.

Take a quick look at Iron County's labor market and you'll discover an economy that is much more diversified than the average nonurban area. Manufacturing plays a particularly important role in providing jobs with an even higher percentage than the state as a whole. Of course, in recessionary periods, this can work to the county's detriment since manufacturing is typically hard-hit by a business downturn.

Iron County is host to Southern Utah University which contributes to its younger-than-average

2003 Nonfarm Jobs
Distribution by Major Industry



[N]umber 2

[That's who]

That is, Utah is number two.

Number two in the nation in terms of employment growth. That's right. Utah is now the second fastest-growing state in the country, based upon the various states' employment counts.

A

And the growth rate is climbing. The various states' employment numbers are available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. December's data was the most recent data available at the time of this writing. For December, Utah's growth rate was 3.2 percent. Since then, Utah's number has climbed even higher. By February, it had climbed to 3.7 percent. That's still not enough to surpass Nevada in the number one spot, but number two isn't bad.


Utah is not foreign to such a high employment growth ranking.

Utah is not foreign to such a high employment growth ranking. Throughout much of the early and middle 1990s, Utah often ranked within the top five in terms of employment growth. It has been nearly seven years since Utah found itself at such a ranking, but having now shed the effects of the early 2000s recession, the state's economic engine is once again purring along.

Why is Utah in this position? It seems like old news to keep talking about that rare economic downturn that Utah experienced in the early 2000s, but it's necessary, because that event is still having its influence on the Utah market.

Utah is generally a robust state economically, having averaged yearly employment growth of 3.3 percent since 1950. That would be sixth in a ranking of all states across that time period. However, Utah hasn't seen an employment growth rate of 3.3 percent since 1997. Late in the 1990s Utah's economic growth slowed because immigration dried up as the strength of the overall U.S. economy kept potential migrants employed in their home regions. Then the recession hit and Utah's employment situation had no chance

of reaching its long-term average. But while this seven-year lethargy was unfolding, Utah's demographic pressures continued to build.

Utah has the nation's youngest population and its highest birth rate. The internal rate of population growth is one of, if not the, nation's swiftest. In addition, in-migration from other states renewed despite the economic slowdown. This demographic buildup, coupled with sub-par economic growth, appears to be the recipe for Utah's strong current economic expansion. Pent-up pressures are being unleashed, and the economic side of the equation is playing rapid catch-up to its demographic counterpart. 

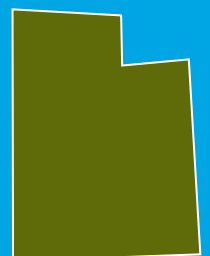
To follow the latest economic events:
jobs.utah.gov/wi/press/tlextra/tlextracurrent.asp

Top Six Employment Growth Rates

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics



Nevada 4.8%



Utah 3.2%



did you know?

- ICU Medical Inc. told employees it will buy Hospira's Salt Lake City plant, strip it and move nearly all of the 750 manufacturing jobs to California, Mexico and Connecticut.
Deseret News
- Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, a real estate investment banking firm, announced it has arranged a \$62.2 million construction loan for a new resort near Midway. The Zermatt Resort and Spa will include a 226-room hotel and conference center and a 126-unit condominium development.
Deseret News
- A Colorado-based aircraft innovator, Adam Aircraft, announced plans to open a plant in Ogden that eventually could employ 300 to 500 workers assembling a new generation of business jets.
Salt Lake Tribune



Hawaii 3.2%



Idaho 3.1%



Arizona 2.8%



Washington 2.4%



educating the masses

Here in Utah, we love to boast about our well-educated population. After all, 88 percent of Utahns over the age of 25 have graduated from high school compared to only 80 percent nationally. We do better in the college arena, too. Roughly 26 percent of Utah's adult population has a college degree compared to 24 percent nationally. (Unfortunately, Utah women show lower college-graduation rates than the national average.)

Who's the Best?

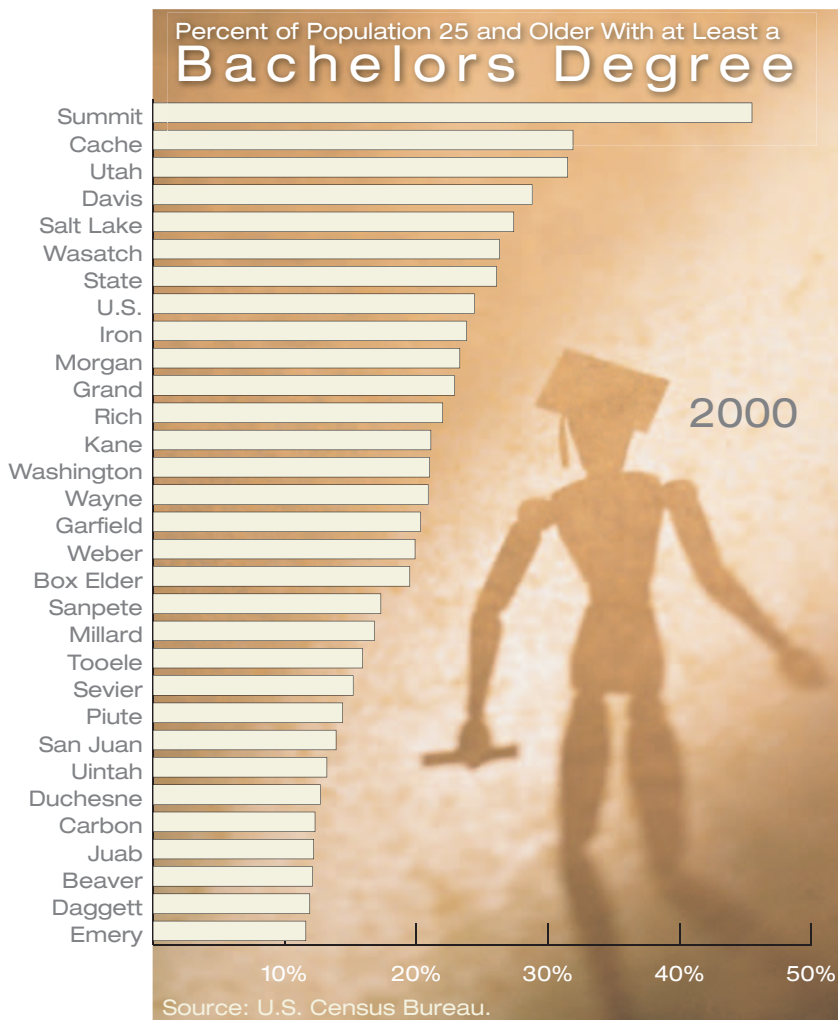
However, all Utah counties aren't created equal when it comes to education. Of course, one might expect urban counties to encompass more college graduates. Typically, a city setting will offer more jobs requiring that degree. In fact, Utah, Davis, and Salt Lake counties all rank in the top tier of well-educated Utah counties. However, Weber County's position falls about midway down in a county-by-county ranking.

You might be surprised to learn that Utah's two best-educated counties (those with the highest percentage of college graduates) are located outside the "Wasatch Front." In Summit County, almost 46 percent of the population over the age of 25 has at least a Bachelor's degree—almost double the national average. Cache County falls next in line with a 32-percent college graduation rate.

For the most part, less-urbanized areas do have lower shares of college graduates. Those counties with the lowest college-graduate percentages are all more rural settings. Carbon, Juab, Beaver, Daggett and Emery counties trail the rankings.

The location of a four-year college or university seems to nudge up the level of college graduates. Both Cache and Iron counties have a higher share of Bachelor-degreed population than similarly sized non-university counties.

You might be surprised to learn that Utah's two best-educated counties (those with the highest percentage of college graduates) are located outside the "Wasatch Front."



did you know?

- Dixie Regional Medical Center in St. George has completed a \$55 million project dedicated solely to rehabilitation services for patients who have undergone joint replacement or bariatric surgery. *The Spectrum*
- Newfield Exploration plans to plug about \$100 million a year for 15 to 20 years into a drilling program in the Monument Butte field in the Uintah Basin. *The Deseret Morning News*
- The Washington City Council approved a zone change for development of more than 240 acres of land owned by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration near mile marker 13 of I-15. The development would involve more than 5 million square feet of commercial space, including a hotel, medium-density housing, trails and open space. *The Spectrum*

The Future?

While less-urbanized areas typically have fewer jobs requiring a college education than densely populated areas, education is becoming increasingly important on all fronts. Projections by the Utah Department of Workforce Services suggest that 20 percent of all new jobs created outside the Wasatch Front will require at least a Bachelor's degree. Statewide, the share is only slightly higher at 22 percent.

More?

Go to: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/demoprofiles.html>

Generation ... x y z



education pays

The Decision to Continue Your Schooling

Upon completion of a degree, whether it's from high school or college, individuals are faced with a major decision: whether to continue their education or enter the workforce. If the pursuit of a higher degree is chosen, it must be understood that there are both direct and indirect costs associated with this choice. The direct costs will include tuition, textbooks, and the like. The indirect costs are the costs associated with what was given up by choosing one thing over the other. If you choose to remain in school, the indirect costs of that degree will include the wages that could have been earned had you chosen instead to start a job. The message here is that all costs, both direct and indirect, should be considered when choosing between a job and school.

“A higher degree not only gives you higher earning potential but more job security which, in turn, can lead to higher lifetime earnings.”

Why More School? Earning Potential

If the cost of an education is so high, why would one choose to pursue a degree? A study by the U.S. Census Bureau showed that higher education is associated with higher earnings (see graph). The data is reported in averages; specific income levels will vary depending on the field of study, the industry and occupation the career falls under, and the geographic region of the country. However, according to the Census study, it is safe to say that the more education you have, the more money you're likely to earn.

In addition to higher pay, the study also showed that the higher the educational attainment, the lower the unemployment rate. In other words, a higher degree not only gives you higher earning potential, but more job security which, in turn, can lead to higher lifetime earnings.

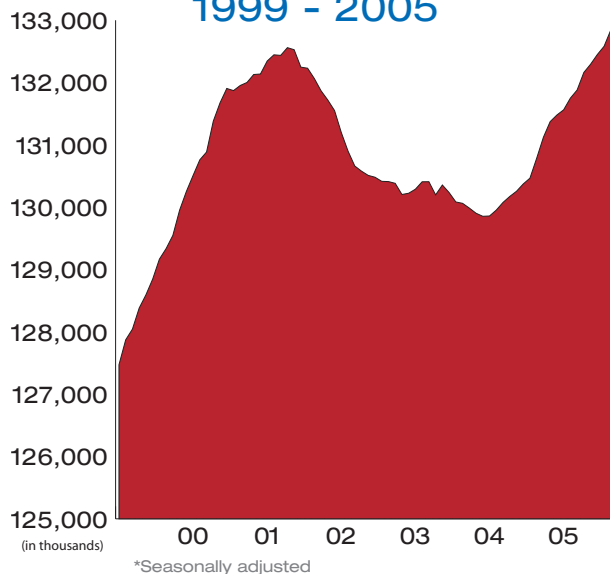
Unemployment Rate Level of Education Median Weekly Earnings

2.1%	Doctorate	\$1,349
1.7%	Professional	\$1,307
2.9%	Master's	\$1,064
3.3%	Bachelor's	\$900
4.0 %	Associate	\$672
5.2%	Some College	\$622
5.5%	High School	\$554
8.8%	Some High School	\$396

Does education really pay off? In general, yes. The exact result will vary depending on such things as job market conditions (i.e. labor demand and supply), tuition levels of the schools considered, and family situations. However, it does seem to be true that the more you learn, the more you earn. 📈

Should We Finally Get Excited?

U.S. Employment*
1999 - 2005



Is it time to finally get excited about the direction of the United States economy? Considering how starved we are for good economic news after the persistent economic downturn of the early 2000s and subsequent lack of employment growth, the current state of the economy looks promising.

The economy is generating new jobs again. The previous employment peak of four years ago has finally been surpassed. Real GDP is expanding at a 4 percent annualized rate, and all segments — households, businesses, government, and overseas trading partners — are contributing to this growth. Production capacity utilization is improving and trending upward. The high level of import activity is one of the few negatives in this economic picture.

Is this improving picture being shared by all? The answer is no, at least not yet. The western states are enjoying the strongest economic rebound, and even then the results are mixed. Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, and Idaho stand out as the states with the best employment growth — all over 3 percent. Nearly all other western states are seeing employment gains of at least one to three percent. Few other parts of the country get this blanket of optimism. The only other significant area is the eastern seaboard from Pennsylvania to Florida.

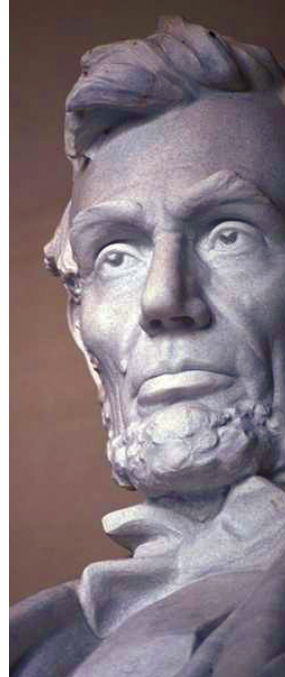
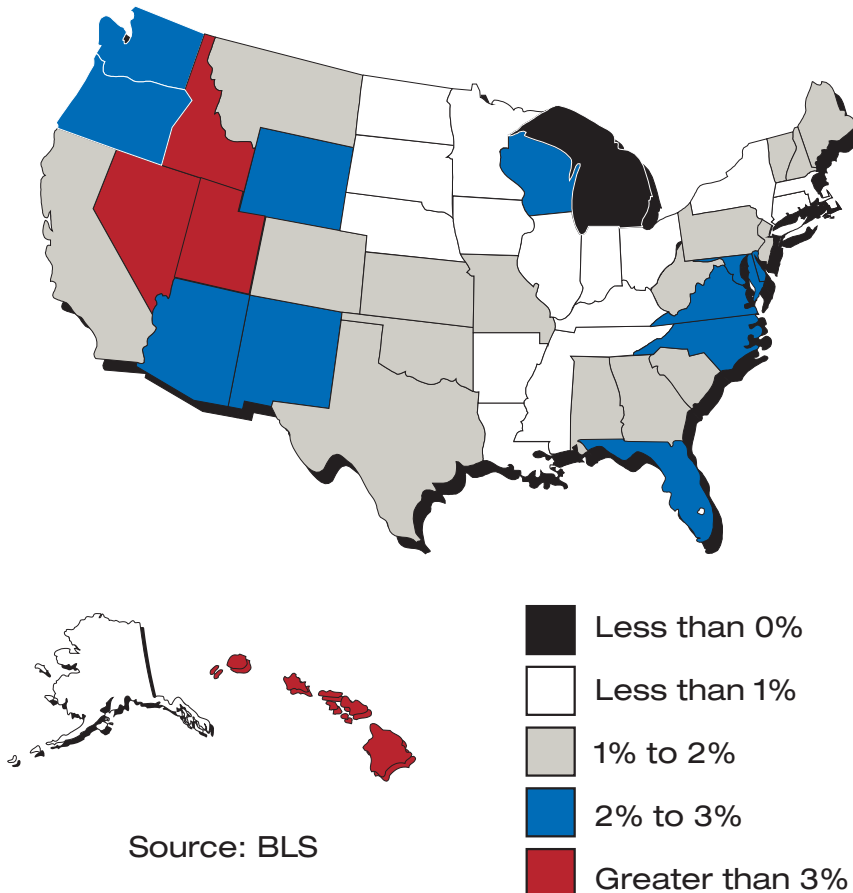
The middle part of the country — the industrial Midwest — is the laggard. It has yet to experience an employment rebound of

any significance. It is a region with a high percentage of manufacturing, particularly the domestic automobile industry, and is still suffering from economic lethargy. However, only one state — Michigan — is still losing jobs. But, this small patch stands in sharp contrast with the post-9/11 environment when nearly three-quarters of the states were losing jobs.

What should we expect as the remainder of this year unfolds? The safest bet is to say that the western states will not only continue to lead in employment growth, but also that those growth rates should ease upward. The Intermountain states will probably do the best, since they have had multiple years of sub-

par employment gains while population growth continued at a strong pace. Strong employment gains should be the catch-up mechanism for the imbalance between that region's civilian labor force growth and the economy's ability to accommodate that growth. ①

Employment Growth Rates – Dec 2004



72 Accommodation and Food Services

Utah

The Accommodation and Food Services sector comprises establishments providing customers with lodging and/or preparing meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption.

Largest Employers

Sinclair Oil (Grand America, Little America, Snowbasin)
Wendy's Hamburgers
Sizzling Platter
Pizza Hut
Olive Garden
Snowbird Corp.
Sunstone Hotel Properties
Arby's
Gastronomy
Taco Bell
Papa Johns Pizza
McDonalds
Hotel Temple Square Corp.
HB Boys
Outback Steakhouse
Chuck-A-Rama)

The sector includes both accommodation and food services establishments because the two activities are often combined at the same establishment. Excluded from this sector are civic and social organizations; amusement and recreation parks; theaters; and other recreation or entertainment facilities providing food and beverage services.

The Accommodation and Food Services sector comprises 7.8 percent of all Utah employment. It has an average monthly wage of \$956, only 38 percent of the statewide average for all industries. A portion of this low-wage disparity is attributed to the large amount of part-time employment in this industry. Another factor is a high proportion of wages earned that are generated through tips, which are not completely captured in tax reporting.



2004

Total

Employment Wage*

86,196 \$984

Accommodation

16,432 \$1,393

Traveler Accommodation

15,841 \$1,403

RV Parks and Recreational Camps

513 \$1,128

Rooming And Boarding Houses

78 \$1,142

Food Services and Drinking Places

69,764 \$888

Full-Service Restaurants

29,593 \$989

Limited-Service Eating Places

34,929 \$787

Special Food Services

2,418 \$1,283

Drinking Places, Alcoholic Beverages

2,826 \$739



North American
Industry
Classification
System

Year	Employment	Average Monthly Wage	% of Utah Avg. Wage	# of Establishments	Payrolls	Emp. % of State Totals	Payroll % of State Total
2000	80,892	\$902	37.6	4,034	\$875.8 M	7.5	2.8
2001	82,275	\$929	37.6	4,191	\$917.6 M	7.6	2.9
2002	84,123	\$956	38.1	4,324	\$965.2 M	7.8	3.0
2003	84,144	\$962	37.7	4,392	\$971.0 M	7.8	3.0
2004	86,333	\$985	37.3	4,647	\$1,020.6 M	7.8	2.9

industry history

County	A/E.S. Employment	% of State A/E.S. Emp	A/E.S. % of County Total Employment	Largest A/E.S. Employer
Salt Lake	38,148	44.2	7.1	Snowbird
Utah	10,724	12.4	6.7	Sundance Resort
Davis	6,524	7.6	7.0	Mimi's Cafe
Weber	6,512	7.5	7.3	Trendwest Resort
Washington	4,972	5.8	11.6	Red Mountain Spa
Summit	3,931	4.6	22.4	Stein Eriksen Lodge
Cache	2,910	3.4	6.3	Olive Garden
Iron	1,414	1.6	9.6	Pizza Factory
Grand	1,214	1.4	29.2	Moab Lodging
Box Elder	1,135	1.3	6.2	Maddox Ranch House

county profiles

accommodation & food services



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128.



Utah Department of Workforce Services
Economic and Data Collection and Analysis Unit
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi>

“New & Improved” occupations



What new jobs are emerging in the U.S. labor market?

Ever wonder what new occupations are being created? Are you looking for jobs on “the cutting edge?” The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides information about new and emerging (N&E) occupations.

According to the OES survey, in 2001, most new and emerging occupations were in smaller firms—those with fewer than 100 employees. No single industry dominated in the creation and growth of these occupations. However, the West is creating the most N&E positions—the Southeast, the fewest.

Construction

New building systems, particularly in commercial construction, and increased use of new materials explain the appearance of new occupations in the traditional construction industry.

Educational Services

Some of the N&E occupations in education arise in connection with the objective of tailoring educational services to students' special needs. Others deal with the use of improved telecommunications applications to deliver education. Technology and its general uses in education explain the creation of other specialist occupations. In addition, governmental regulations governing athletic and other physical education programs have contributed to other occupations in special education and the administration of athletic programs.

Health Services

In the health field, N&E occupations have addressed specialized patient care, continuing responses to advancing medical technologies, improved scheduling of surgical procedures, and alternative medical service delivery approaches. Increased attention has been directed toward management and care of tissue banks. In light of recent genome developments, genetic counselors are appearing upon the medical scene.

Social Services

Nurses continue to be employed in areas other than healthcare, primarily to control medical costs. Information management, like nursing, is not a new field, but one that continues to appear in a number of new industry settings such as social services. Senior and disabled persons are creating situations calling for cheer workers who provide opportunities for therapeutic interaction and others who investigate charges and complaints of mistreatment. Drivers qualified to deliver hazardous materials may provide oxygen to residences and other service locations. Providing services for the insulation and heating of residences has created occupations in weatherization and heating cost recovery. Finally, increased awareness of disaster preparedness is driving the creation of related positions.

Transportation

Clearly "carriage driver" is not a new occupation; however, it appears in connection with the development of urban entertainment districts. Attention to the mobility needs of the handicapped has contributed to the creation of aide occupations to assist them on buses.


Services

A variety of service occupations are appearing. Some deal with security needs. Others reflect cultural attitudes about future uncertainties or finding a mate. The continuing drive to improve the efficiency of manufacturing operations through improved material management has created specialist positions. Increased attention to docks and ports has created highly specialized underwater inspection jobs.

Pay special attention to the Internet and telecommunications technologies. A variety of new specialized occupations continue to appear as a result of advancements.

Engineering Services and Manufacturing

New materials and processes have contributed to the creation of new occupations while the regulatory concern for the associated environmental and health impacts of these have created additional occupations. Lasers and various optical technologies continue to create new occupations.

Some occupations are not new but are once again emerging due to consumer preferences. For example, the cultural resurgence of neon lighting has created the need for neon benders. Other occupations that are not new but are emerging in engineering and sciences include translators as manufacturers' foreign markets and contacts increased. Maintenance and renewal of the national defense capabilities is associated with the expanded presence of missile specialists. 

Advice From the Utah Department of Workforce Services

Just because a job is "new" and "emerging" does not mean there are a lot of these jobs right now. In fact, we're not absolutely certain there will ever be a large number of openings in any of these jobs. However, it does provide insight to how existing jobs are evolving and what incumbents might face in the future. It may also be helpful for people making long-term career decisions to see what types of skills may be required in the future. And it is interesting.

Note: The above article is a summary of research conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The research in its entirety can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/oes/2003/may/emerging.pdf>

Key to Workplace Success

Soft Skills

W

Whether you are trying to get your first job, attempting to advance in your career, or even looking to make a major change; so-called “soft skills” are critical to your quest. One of the major themes of the “new economy” is change! In a 40-plus-year working life, each of us will change occupations, and even careers many times. How can any of us prepare ourselves through education and training for such a seemingly unsure employment future? In a phrase: “soft skills.”

What are Soft Skills ?

Soft skills consist of a large set of somewhat nebulously defined qualities, attributes, and traits that are needed in the workplace, and that employers find critical for employee success. They are not the technical skills or expertise needed by a particular occupation.

Soft Skills are often categorized into four groups:

- Problem Solving/Critical Thinking and Reasoning
- Communication – Oral and Written
- Personal Qualities / Work Ethic
- Interpersonal / Teamwork

Problem solving and reasoning skills include important personal traits such as creativity, the ability to learn, decision-making, planning, and common sense.

Communication skills are needed to present and receive information from customers, co-workers, and supervisors.

Oral and written communication skills such as public speaking, report and letter writing, active listening, and teaching; are always in high demand and frequently lacking, according to job recruiters.

Personal qualities and work ethic skills run the gamut from appearance to effectiveness. Important personal traits include grooming/ hygiene/dress, dependability, honesty, motivation, time management, and initiative.

Finally, teamwork and interpersonal skills are those needed to succeed in the collaborative efforts required in most job settings. In this area some highly-valued skills include working well with others, leadership, a sense of humor, and the ability to resolve conflicts constructively.

Soft skills are difficult to measure because they have many intangible qualities. Each person will have soft skills in varying combinations and degrees of proficiency. While not easily taught, with effort soft skills can be emulated, honed, and strengthened.

Employers can generally train their workers to apply technical abilities to meet the day-to-day demands of the job. But when it comes to soft skills, employers want workers who already possess the necessary traits needed to succeed.

Job Search

Often, as we prepare for the world of work, the focus is on our training and education. Technical competence is what one strives for. Yet much of career success is likely to be related to the personal attributes and interpersonal skills we have – our soft skills proficiency.

Soft skills can differentiate between technically qualified candidates for a position. Technical ability – “hard skills,” acquired by training,





Communicate Clearly
Active Listener
Follow Directions
Share Information
Present Ideas Understandably
Express Opinions
Speak Confidently
Appropriate to the Situations
Persuasive
Ability to Teach

Honest
Hard Working
Take Initiative
Motivated
Flexible
Detail Oriented
Act Professionally
Organized
Confident
Outgoing
Positive
Good Grooming
Punctual
Dependable
Productive
Loyal

Analytical
Computer Literate
Creative
Formulate Solutions
Quick Learner
Innovative
Computational Competent
Common Sense
Planner
Resourceful

Get Along with Others
Work Well with Others
Collaborate
Share Knowledge
Extend a Hand
A Leader
Tact / Polite
Sense of Humor
Serve Clients
Resolve Conflict Maturely
Sociable
Respectful
Cooperative
Accept Feedback
Manage Emotions
Take Direction


Employers Want

- Problem Solving/Critical Thinking and Reasoning
- Communication – Oral and Written
- Personal Qualities / Work Ethic
- Interpersonal / Teamwork

experience, and education; can be detailed on a resume and are generally the attributes used to screen a pool of applicants to determine those who are qualified for a job. Choosing between qualified individuals is accomplished by the interview process, testing, and by checking references, a process of evaluating a job seeker's soft skills.

Hard skills will get you an interview, but soft skills will get you the job.

Soft skills are critical to your value as an employee and your ability to progress within a company. Worker “fit”, value, and success is a function of the mix of soft skills one possesses.

In a lifetime, you could work on improving aspects of your soft skills without end. None of us is perfect. The benefits of developing and strengthening these skills are clear—not the least of which is that soft skills are transferable to any job situation, career, or occupation. 

More?

[http://ut.skillwindow.com/
?OCC=15103200&DISP=Skills](http://ut.skillwindow.com/?OCC=15103200&DISP=Skills)

FLIPPING BURGERS for your FUTU




What could be better than spending your summer vacation playing Xbox and sleeping in? Getting a job! As a teenager, I spent my summers working in the cornfields of Wisconsin, flipping burgers, waitressing, and working as a receptionist. I'll admit that my main motivation was to buy a car and cool clothes. Besides being a great way to make friends and earn money, my summer jobs taught me valuable job skills that are important today, and I had a lot of fun too.

RE

Don't Forget to Look in the Mirror!

If you've never had a job, finding one may be intimidating. Plenty of opportunities are out there if you're willing to make the effort. Put the word out to your family and friends that you're looking for a summer job. Many people find jobs through such "networking." Don't be afraid to approach a company and ask if they have summer job opportunities. Seasonal establishments, such as restaurants, amusement parks, and swimming pools are often looking for workers to fill temporary positions. Remember to make a good impression by being well groomed, polite, and enthusiastic. Make sure that your application is neat and free from spelling or grammatical errors.

Are you wondering how much money you'll likely earn? Luckily, DWS has data to answer that question. Keep in mind that when you are starting out with little experience, you can expect to be at the lower end of the pay scale. See the chart for common summer jobs and their wages. You can also check out our website at <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/occexpDefault.jsp> for more information. Good luck, and have fun developing your job skills while you earn some money. 

Skills? What Skills?

Although you might not think that working fast food as a teenager could have much to do with success in your career later on, that summer job will develop important skills that all employers are looking for. Whether you are applying to sell sneakers, answer phones, or be a professional engineer, your employer will expect you to show up on time, follow directions, work well with others, and use good communication skills. These are important "soft skills." As I spent summer afternoons taking orders for root beer floats and mopping bathrooms, I also used basic math skills, learned to manage my time, and developed teamwork skills.

But What Can I Do?

Do you already have a career in mind? Why not learn more about the occupation or industry now, get your foot in the door, and earn some cash for that new stereo you've been wanting? If you think you might like being an architect, maybe you could work construction to learn more about how buildings are put together. Interested in healthcare? A summer job as a home health aide could help you see if that field is a good fit for you. If you are the entrepreneurial type, you could even start your own business mowing lawns, washing windows, babysitting, or many other things. Use your imagination! Just be sure that you research your opportunities to get a realistic picture of what the business involves and how much you can expect to earn. And remember... If the pay sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Common Summer Jobs and their Wages



Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	\$7.30
Child Care Workers	\$6.00
Fast Food Cooks	\$6.10
Retail Salespersons	\$7.00
General Office Workers	\$7.40



College Graduate Outlook 2005

In the split second between throwing your mortarboard in the air and it pegging someone three rows in front of you, a cold, hard, realization slaps you in the face: you need a job! Of course, you have planned for this moment for the past year and have already lined up a high-paying job with full-benefits in your field. No? Ok, don't panic, you can still recover.

Job Outlook

Luckily, 2005 promises to be a good year for graduates entering the real world – no, not MTV’s Real World, but the working world. Both national and state economies are showing renewed vigor and the forecasts for the year show solid job growth. In line with these economic indicators, roughly two-thirds of employers surveyed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) said that this year’s job market was “good” or “very good.”

So, is it going to be easy to get a job? Well, since the demand for graduates is tied up with which parts of the economy are doing well, your experience is going to vary. Not surprisingly, the NACE survey shows that engineering graduates should do well. Likewise, thanks to the improved economic situation, business and finance-related degrees are in high demand in both the public and private sectors. Of course, depending on your willingness to relocate, your mileage may vary, even with a degree that is in demand nationwide.

Closer to home, the Department of Workforce Services’ recently released Job Vacancy Survey reveals that there is considerable local demand for college graduates. In metro-Utah – which, because of its size, approximates statewide demand – there are high vacancy rates for financial analysts, computer software engineers, and sales engineers (before you ask, these are people who sell business products and services that require specialized knowledge, hence “engineer.”) Graduates with degrees in these areas should find they are welcomed with open arms here at home.

But I have a degree in Political Science!

Relax. There is no such thing as a useless major. Universities have been surreptitiously forcing students to acquire soft skills, which are highly prized by employers, for centuries. So, while having specialized skills may make it easier to land a specific position, playing to those general skills that you picked up at school – like knowing how to work in a team, flexibility, computer skills, and integrity (no cheating!) – will greatly improve your chances of landing the job you want. So despair not, social science majors! If you can communicate without talking like, y’know, you just stepped off the set of, like, Clueless, you will already meet the number one skill requested by employers.

Job Market, Ahoy!

All right, before you throw yourself into the sea of job seekers, take a moment to define what you want from a job and from the company you will work for. Find out what the companies you are interested in do, and think of how you could fit in. A minute’s search of a company’s website may save you from working for the company from Hell. Plus, employers are impressed when it’s obvious that you’ve done your homework.



Play to your skills and experience when sending in your resume – and don’t forget a cover letter! If you get that interview, make sure to use some common sense. Be punctual and dress appropriately. Coming prepared with extra copies of your resume and other papers always looks good. These may seem like comparatively small things, but by paying attention to them you can easily out-class much of your competition.

A great source for advice and tips is your school’s career counseling center. These places exist purely to help you successfully navigate the job market. Don’t be afraid to have them check over your resumes to make sure you haven’t sold yourself short. They can also give you invaluable and up-to-date advice on interviewing techniques and general job dos and don’ts.

More?

[http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/Occupation Information @ Utah’s Economic Data Viewer](http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/OccupationInformation@Utah'sEconomicDataViewer)


[http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/pubs/vacancy/Department of Work force Service’s Job Vacancy Survey \(JVS\)](http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/pubs/vacancy/DepartmentofWorkforceService'sJobVacancySurvey(JVS))

<http://www.jobweb.com/joboutlook/2005outlook/1a.htm>
Job Outlook 2005 (Student Version)

Things I wish I had done...

confessions of a former college slacker!

Not graduating this summer? Stellar!
There is still hope for you!

- **Make some goals!** If you are going to graduate next year you should already have some clue about what you want to do when you break out, I mean, graduate. What are you passionate about? Don't settle for being a corporate cog. Do some legwork and get the job you want!
- **Intern** in the field you want to get into. Go now. Do it. You'll thank me, I promise. Employers today want to see relevant work experience – even for entry-level positions! If your internship doesn't lead to a full-time position for that particular company, the experience alone will make finding a good job much, much easier.
- **Network!** Career counselors stress this idea over and over and over. Ask your professors about who are some of the companies in the area that hire people like you. Don't be afraid to approach company human resources offices and ask about their hiring plans. Get your name out there. 



TOP



Bachelor's Degrees in Demand

- Accounting
- **Electrical Engineering**
- **Mechanical Engineering**
- **Business Administration**
Management
- **Economics/Finance**
- Computer Science
- **Computer Engineering**
- **Marketing/Marketing**
Management
- **Chemical Engineering**
- **Information Sciences**
and Systems

the facts are....

March 2005		Changes From Last Year	
Utah Unemployment Rate	4.8 %	↓	0.5 points
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.2 %	↓	0.5 points
Utah Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	1,126.5	↑	3.7 %
U.S. Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	132,145.0	↑	1.6 %
U.S. Consumer Price Index	191.8	↑	3.0 %
U.S. Producer Price Index	151.6	↑	6.7 %

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

did you know?

With almost 46 percent of its adult population holding at least a bachelor's degree, Summit county is the best educated and most affluent county in Utah.



Theme - Tourism & Recreation

Highlighted County - Kane

Industry - Arts
Entertainment & Recreation

Next Time

Trendlines

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Workforce Information

generates accurate, timely, and understandable data and analyses to provide knowledge of ever-changing workforce environments that inform sound planning and decision-making.



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